

October 25, 2000

SALUTING JACINTO ACEBAL FOR
RECEIVING THE UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate a friend and constituent of my Congressional district, Jacinto "Ace" Acebal, on receiving the Dot Sharpe Lifetime Achievement Award.

This national award for diversity achievement is presented by the United States Postal Service to outstanding postal employees who have demonstrated contributions over a substantial period of their postal careers, including community and civic involvement.

Jacinto joined the United States Postal Service as a letter carrier and during his career has been promoted to Supervisor of Customer Service, Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor Investigator, Human Resource Specialist, and most recently, Hispanic Programs Specialist. As a result of the work that he has accomplished in his latest position, there are more Hispanics on the United States Postal Service south Florida district registers, and the hiring of Hispanic has increased from 35% to 50.4%.

Ace has not only had a exceptionally successful career with the United States Postal Service and been one of our community's most involved and caring members, he has also demonstrated remarkable courage and patriotism. He joined the United States Army, volunteered to go to Vietnam and shortly thereafter requested to be assigned to combat duty. Jacinto was recognized as the most decorated Cuban American in the War having obtained eighteen medals during his one year service.

Here at home, Ace has always exhibited a willingness to volunteer for causes benefitting the young and old, postal employees, civilians, veterans, and especially minorities. He is an active citizen who has contacted me and other Members of Congress on matters such as the importance of saving Social Security and raising awareness of veterans' issue. It is fitting that he should receive the Dot Sharpe Lifetime Achievement Award.

I am proud to know individuals like Jacinto and I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in congratulating Jacinto on his latest achievement.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
CONGRESSMAN SIDNEY YATES

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I never had the privilege to serve with the late Congressman Sid Yates, but I feel like I have known him through the positive impact he had on the State of Illinois and the Nation. He truly stood for all of the ideals that made this country great.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FOR THE RELIEF OF PERSIAN
GULF EVACUEES

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3646, a bill I introduced to grant permanent immigrant status to those families who were evacuated from Kuwait for safety reasons by the United States Government prior to United States military intervention against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

These families have been cleared by INS and the FBI, and have been found to be hard-working, self-sufficient individuals, who have been in limbo for nearly a decade while awaiting adjustment of their status.

None of these individuals have ever been a ward of the State, but have found jobs and resources necessary to make themselves completely self-supporting citizens of this country.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to my colleagues, Immigration Subcommittee Chairman LAMAR SMITH, and Judiciary Committee Chairman HENRY HYDE, and their hard working staff, for the effort that they have made to bring this bill to fruition.

It was a long, hard journey of cooperation and coordination among subcommittee and full committee staff, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, whose job it was to do an in-depth investigation of the Persian Gulf evacuees during their 10 year hiatus in the United States, and to find them worthy of permanent status.

All these efforts, individually and collectively have brought us to today's passage of H.R. 3646, granting permanent immigrant status to those people who have come to be known as Persian Gulf evacuees.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their support of this important legislation to assist these families in securing the right to remain in the United States after our government evacuated them from Kuwait at the start of the Persian Gulf war, to ensure their safety.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on October 24, 2000, I was detained with business in my district, and therefore unable to cast my votes on rollcall numbers 541 through 543. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 542, and "nay" on rollcall votes 541 and 543.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I was recorded as a "yea" on rollcall vote No. 382. It was my intention to vote "nay".

THE ARIZONA WATER
SETTLEMENTS ACT OF 2000

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a sponsor of the Arizona Water Settlements Act of 2000, H.R. 5529. This legislation, which was introduced yesterday with the support of the entire Arizona House Delegation, will resolve several long-standing issues pertaining to the repayment obligations and water allocation related to the Central Arizona Project. Although outstanding issues remain, significant progress has been made. It is my hope that the introduction of this bill will encourage all parties involved to quickly finalize the few remaining issues of the agreement, as well as show the Delegation's strong commitment to seeing this process through.

Among the issues yet to be firmly resolved is that of the procedures through which Tribes may bring land acquired after the settlement date into "trust." It is my understanding that although the Tribes have been working closely with the State parties, and that a tremendous amount of work has already been accomplished, the final details have yet to be agreed upon. Settling this issue will require a delicate balance of interests, and the outcome will impact not only the parties to this settlement, but other tribes as well, including the Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham in the district I represent. In fact, all of Indian Country will be looking to this provision because it could very well affect all future Native American water and land dispute settlements. Therefore, this matter must be finalized in a manner that sets an acceptable precedent if the final agreement is to maintain the broad support enjoyed by this preliminary legislation.

There are other important and difficult issues yet to be resolved, including the utilization of settlement funds. Nevertheless, I am extremely encouraged that all the parties are so close to an agreement and focused on cooperation. I commend all the parties involved for their determination to make this happen and their commitment to negotiate their differences for the benefit of all Arizonans. This agreement is a cornerstone of the foundation on which Arizona will thrive in the future. I am proud to support the new Act, and I look forward to enacting final legislation on this issue early in the 107th Congress.